

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 AID-05 EUR-12 ACDA-07 /101 W
-----261240 061079 /14

R 261210Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1115
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1051

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ET SO SU FT MO
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN NORTHEAST AFRICA

REF: STATE 034960

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO REFTEL INCLUDES BOTH OFFICIAL MOROCCAN
COMMENTS AND EMBASSY INTERPRETATION:

2. KING HASSAN HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO
THE AMBASSADOR OVER SOVIET INCURSIONS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT,
CITING SOMALIA AS ONE EXAMPLE. THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF
THE MFA AFRICAN-ASIAN AFFAIRS DIVISION TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 23,
HOWEVER, THAT THE GOM HAD ASSIDUOUSLY SHUNNED PUBLIC POSITIONS ON
THE AREA, EVEN CONCERNING SUDAN, WITH WHICH IT HAS PARTICULARLY
FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

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3. SUDAN IS COUNTRY OF GREATEST IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO GOM IN
THE AREA. MOROCCO STRONGLY SUPPORTS NUMEIRY IN HIS PROBLEMS WITH
ARCH-VILLAIN QADHAFI. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL MOROCCAN
COMMENTARY ON EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA, ALTHOUGH THE GOM IS PRESUMABLY
CONCERNED. FONMIN LARAKI TOLD THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 24 THAT
THE GOM WAS NOT PAYING MUCH ATTENTION FOR THE MOMENT TO THE CALL
TO SHIFT OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS, BUT COULD SEE PRESSURE TO

MOVE OUT IF CURRENT INSTABILITY CONTINUES FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME.

4. FOR MOROCCANS, TENSIONS IN THE HORN ARE COMPOUNDED BY THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY QUESTION. IN LIGHT OF LAST YEAR'S ABSORPTION OF PART OF THE SAHARA, MOROCCO'S STRESS ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY PROBABLY SERVES TO COUNTER-BALANCE ITS USUAL PREDISPOSITION TO SUPPORT ITS MOSLEM BRETHERN IN SOMALIA AND ERITREA.

5. LIKEWISE, THE GOM VIEW ON THE U.S. ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA IS PROBABLY AMBIGUOUS, BALANCING MOROCCAN SYMPATHY FOR SUDAN WITH THE GOM'S DESIRE THAT THE U.S. PLAY A ROLE IN AFRICA TO COUNTERACT THE SOVIETS. FOR THE PRESENT, WE JUDGE THAT OUR CONTINUED ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA IS DOING US NO HARM HERE.

6. IN SUM, SOVIET PENETRATION ASIDE, THE HORN IS NOT A BURNING ISSUE FOR THE GOM, WITH THE MOROCCAN ATTITUDE ONE OF WATCHFUL WAITING. THE PRINCIPAL MOROCCAN DESIRE REGARDING OUR POSTURE IS THAT THE USG SHOULD ASSERT GREATER LEADERSHIP AGAINST COMMUNIST INROADS.
ANDERSON

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